



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC  
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Released: February 17, 2006

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**Idaho Sheep Industry Suffers A \$4.61 Million Death And Theft Loss**

Idaho sheep producers lost an estimated 32,000 head of sheep and lambs from all causes, valued at \$4.61 million in 2005, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. This compares with losses totaling 35,000 head with a value of \$4.55 million in 2004.

Predator losses at 30.9 percent, accounted for 9,900 losses worth a value of \$1.43 million. Coyotes did the most predator damage, at 6,100 head of sheep and lambs. Losses from coyotes alone were valued at \$878,000. Bears claimed 900 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$130,000; wolves, dogs, and cougars each caused 500 deaths valued at \$72,000 for each predator category; fox killed 200 head, valued at \$29,000. Losses from other and unknown predators, including bobcats, and eagles, accounted for an additional 1,200 head of sheep and lambs.

Non predator losses, accounted for 22,100 losses worth a value of \$3.18 million. Disease claimed 5,200 sheep and lambs in 2005 valued at \$749,000. Lambing complications claimed 5,000; weather killed 3,500 head; old age killed 1,700 and poison killed 1,000 head. Other causes such as accidents, fire, starvation and dehydration caused an additional 1,400 sheep and lamb deaths during 2005.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.

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